

Appl. No. 10/690,905
Amdt. dated July 5, 2005
Reply to Office action of April 6, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have received the Office action dated April 6, 2005, in which the Examiner: (1) issued a restriction requirement; (2) rejected claims 1 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yanagisawa (U.S. Pat. No. 5,805,412); (3) rejected claims 2-7 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Yanagisawa and Ma (U.S. Pat. No. 5,875,307); and (4) withdrew the indication that some of the dependent claims contained allowable subject matter. With this Response, Applicants cancel claims 1-7 and 11-15, withdraw claims 17, 19, and 22, and submit new claims 27-41. Based on the amendments and arguments contained herein, Applicants believe all claims to be in condition for allowance.

The Examiner restricted out claims 17, 19, and 22. Applicants confirm that those claims are withdrawn.

Claim 27 is directed to a system that, among other features, comprises the following limitation:

"a digital portion of a network interface, said digital portion including an initialization device select input that permits the digital portion to be configured, and an AND gate whose output signal couples to the initialization device select input and having an input that couples to an address line of a system bus and another input coupling to the first expansion device input signal, whereby for said digital portion to be configured, said address line is asserted and said first expansion device input signal is asserted indicating that the first expansion device has been docked to the portable computer."

For at least the stated reason that the Examiner allowed claim 16 in the parent case (09/515,566), which issued as claim 1 in that case, the Examiner should readily find that claim 27 and its dependent claims in the present application are allowable.

Claim 34 is directed to a method that, among other features, comprises the following limitation:

"configuring said configurable digital portion of the network interface at least by asserting an address line of a system bus and asserting a first expansion device input signal indicative of the first expansion device being docked to the computer, said address line and first

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expansion device input signal being provided as inputs to an AND gate whose output couples to an initialization device in the digital portion."

For at least the stated reason that the Examiner allowed claim 16 in the parent case (09/515,566), which issued as claim 1, the Examiner should readily find that claim 34 and its dependent claims in the present application are allowable.

In the course of the foregoing discussions, Applicants may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other limitations can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each limitation of the claims must be considered when determining the patentability of the claims. Moreover, it should be understood that there may be other distinctions between the claims and the cited art which have yet to be raised, but which may be raised in the future.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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